

## THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

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as well as the throw stick, are products of persistent and open-minded experience. The selection and adaptation of things in nature to a special operation in the arts often show ingenuity as great as that manifested in any of our devices.<sup>1</sup> This ingenuity is of the same kind as that shown by many animals. Intelligent experiment, however, is not wanting. It is reported of Eskimo that they invent imaginary hard cases, such as might occur to them, and, by way of sport, discuss the proper way to deal with the case.<sup>2</sup> Operations similar to this in play show a mode in which ingenuity must have been developed and inventions produced. In the higher grades of the hunting stage, such as are presented by the North American Indians, buffalo hunting, for instance, calls for the highest organization and skill, and establishes inflexible discipline.<sup>3</sup>

123. Fishing. Fishing furnishes a parallel case. A Thlinkit fisherman puts on a cap which resembles the head of a seal, and hiding his body between the rocks makes a noise like a seal. This entices seals towards him and gives him opportunity to kill them.<sup>4</sup> The Australians had a fish spear and a net made of fibers, which were chewed by the women to make them soft. They had no hooks until they got them from the whites.<sup>5</sup> Weirs for fishing were built of stone. One is described which was a labyrinth of stone circles, of which some were connected with each other. The walls are three or four feet high. The fish get confused and are caught by hand.<sup>6</sup> Remains of weirs, consisting of wattled work of reeds or saplings, are found in the rivers of northern Europe. The device of putting into the water some

poisonous or narcotic substance in order to stupefy  
the\* fish is  
met with all over the globe. It was employed by  
the aborigines  
on Lanzarote (Canary Islands). There the fish were  
freshened in  
unpoisoned waters.<sup>7</sup> It is quite impossible that this  
device should  
have spread only by contact. It must have been  
independently  
invented. It secured a large amount of fish  
with very little

<sup>1</sup> E.g. a rasp made from the skin of the palate of a kind of  
ray, by Tahitians,  
Vienna Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Mason, *Origin of Invention* ^ 23. <sup>5</sup> Ratzel, *Völkerkunde*, II,  
52.

<sup>8</sup> Grinnell, *Folk Tales*\*295.  
I, 202.

<sup>6</sup> Smyth, *Aborig. of Victoria* ^

\* Ball, *Bur. Eth.*, III, 122.  
466.

<sup>7</sup> *N. S. Amer. Anthropol.*, II,